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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FSA ADMINISTRATOR REMINDS AFFECTED FARMERS AND RANCHERS OF FSA PROGRAMS – DISASTER ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR PRODUCERS

SPRINGFIELD, IL, May 3, 2011 – USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Illinois State Executive Director Scherrie Giamanco announced today that USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Acting Administrator Bruce Nelson wishes to remind crop and livestock producers throughout states that have recently experienced severe damage from flooding, wildfires and tornadoes that FSA programs may be available to assist with recovery.

"Severe weather this spring is making things very difficult for many ranchers and farmers. Whether it's wildfires in the Southwest, flooding or tornados in the Midwest, Plains, and Southeast, learning about our FSA disaster programs is an important first step for producers in the recovery process," said Nelson.

FSA administers several important programs that help producers recover from disaster damage and livestock deaths. Among the key programs available to address impacts from disasters are the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), the Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments (SURE) Program and the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) for nonindustrial private forest land.

Fact sheets for all of these programs can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov; click on Newsroom, then Fact Sheets.

"We encourage all who have suffered a disaster due to the recent severe weather conditions to read the fact sheets and visit their local FSA county office so they get a quick start in the recovery process," added Giamanco.

Additionally, USDA Risk Management Agency Administrator William Murphy reminds Federal crop insurance policyholders that they should notify their crop insurance companies as soon as they discover that their land is flooded.

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